



Dear Reader:

Greetings. We at Active Transformation just wanted to introduce ourselves. We are a revolutionary anarchist collective centered in Michigan. Members of Active Transformation have come from a variety of organizations, Anti-Racist Action, Brown Berets, Love and Rage, Trumbull Theater Collective, etc. We are a closed collective, but we are interested in your input in a number of ways.

Firstly we would like you to take a look through our paper and let us know what you think - we would appreciate more criticism than compliment. While we had published the paper before, we are just getting reestablished and could use whatever input you would be willing to share with us.

Secondly we would appreciate scene reports and/or press releases from your area. We would also appreciate submission of articles. Please get in contact with us if you are interested.

Lastly we would add a plea for some loot. At the moment we pay for the paper out of pocket, as well as a few advertisements. We would like to keep advertisements to a minimum. To do this we need your support.

There are a number of ways you can help us out (besides the list above). You can buy a \$6 one-year subscription. This would provide you with 6 bimonthly issues which would arrive promptly at your mailbox. If you are interested in distributing the paper please send along \$5 for twenty copies of the latest issue.

Most importantly you can become a SUPPORTER of Active Transformation. To become a SUPPORTER we require that you make a twenty-five dollar monthly donation. In return for this you will receive our quarterly Supporter Journal which contains political discussions that are going on within the collective. You will also receive updates on upcoming events as well as free admission.

We appreciate your taking the time to read through this and our paper. We thank you in advance for your support. Onward to revolution!

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Active Transformation

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a direct action anarchist newspaper

NO HUMAN IS ILLEGAL!



Inside:

Fight Back Against the INS • Freedom For
Puerto Rican POWs • Free Mumia • MDOC
Clamps Down on Human Dignity • Tenants
Rights • Youth Liberation • Matt Shepard •
and more....

HANDS OFF THIS LAND ! The Struggle for Freedom of Movement

by Wenita Revolution

This article is a two-part series. This article focuses entirely on U.S. - Mexico border-crossing type of immigration while part two will expose legal tools used to detain and deport Arab-Americans which are violative of the most basic components of civil rights. The articles seek to examine these different forms of racist and economically-based exploitative campaigns designed to perpetuate U.S. Imperialism.

A universal rule of anarchist belief and theory is a world community without borders. The concept of La Frontera or a national "boundary" is an offense to humanity. The first man to plant four sticks into the ground and claim it to be his own, was not the founder of "property", but the first oppressor of individual free will and the right of every being to explore the world. While the borders of western Europe, including Italy, Austria and Switzerland, are being eliminated entirely, in the western hemisphere, the U.S. is enforcing a racist, economically exploitative and truly imperialist campaign that steals the life-blood of workers in Mexico and forces them into wage-slavery while confiscating their own natural resources to boot. An integral goal of our struggle must be to eliminate all borders.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service in cooperation with Big Business

The Immigration and Naturalization Service, the "I.N.S." or La Migra is becoming the U.S. government's favorite weapon in its "divide and conquer" attack on working class people; on the one side are the white U.S. workers and on the other are those who are fleeing U.S. imposed economic exploitation in Mexico.



¡Conozca Sus Derechos!

The government has the backing of unions which support immigration enforcement, because it creates the belief among workers that there will be more jobs for American workers. Of course these are only false hopes and impossible, when the whole purpose of NAFTA is to allow corporations to close up here and move south. But the racist sentiment created by the unions only weakens its strength and promotes racism against the mostly legal Mexican workforce. There is a real goal of corporate fascism in creating a society that is comfortable turning in their neighbors, such as under Proposition 187 in California. The hidden purpose is revealed when the plan comes full circle as a means for big profit at taxpayers expense, when the I.N.S. raids put undocumented workers in prison. Long before actual deportation, and while awaiting a hearing that may take over a year to occur, these non-criminal workers are held within the walls of county jails and prisons run by private corporations funded through the federal government at taxpayer expense.

Detroit, N.A.F.T.A. and Maquilladoras

NAFTA, the most blatantly exploitative, economic treaty ever imposed on Mexico was developed to eliminate restraints on trade. The equal treatment of workers on both sides of the border was an element of the treaty which was struck down, and an idea that seems to run in the face of the whole purpose of making Mexico a nation of cheap workers for U.S. big business. This has caused the U.S. to focus investment of tax payer money into the expansion of immigration enforcement to physically kick back Mexicans back into Mexico to work in their wage-slave automotive factories and maquilladora assembly plants.

This has been made very clear here in Detroit. It first became quite obvious that NAFTA would be highly valuable to the big three auto companies when it was no one other than Michigan's Governor Engler, who spear-headed the campaign by investing endless time and effort flying back and forth to Mexico City to see this treaty go through.

Billions of dollars in profits are created by this treaty that expands the availability of maquilladoras. Maquilladoras were once used to allow U.S. producers to avoid paying import taxes on products assembled in Mexico, but only when the products leaving Mexico looked substantially the same as it arrived. This disallowed the import of raw materials to be produced into products and only allowed simple assembly to be excluded from duties. Today, this "substantially the same" continued on page 6

MATT SHEPARD WILL BE REMEMBERED

By STeve

Too many times I have heard people argue that fascists must be ignored, or that we should wait for issues to be settled through "the system". And once again another vibrant life is taken from our movement by inhumane pigs. In our last issue we talked about the loss of our comrades Lin "Spit" Newborn and Daniel Shersty. This month we mourn the loss of Matt Shepard, I only wonder how many months, years will pass before we develop a movement that can put fear into the hearts of those that would perpetrate these heinous acts, as well as those whose homophobic politics encourage these monsters.

By now most everyone has probably heard the story of wyoming college student Matt Shepard, deceptively lured from his favorite hangout by two men who he thought were gay, later to be beaten with a pistol, tied to a fence and left to die. Shortly afterward police pulled over Russell Henderson and Aaron McKinney who had in their pickup the bloody .357 used to beat him, Shepard's shoes, and one of his credit cards. Their girlfriends were also arrested as accomplices after the fact.

Even after waiting in the cold for eighteen hours with his skull badly collapsed, Matt Shepard managed to hang on to his life for nearly a week, but on October 12th he could hold on no longer. The father of one of the accused murderers excused the attack on the grounds that Shepard had hit on his son in front of his friends, and somehow the embarrassment from that encounter was somehow deserving of a death sentence.

Immediately after the beating protests were sparked across the country. Students at the University of Wyoming held a vibrant march on October 10th. Detroit's Triangle Foundation organized a vigil and rally in Livonia. This event was a joint memorial for Mathew Shepard and protest of an appearance of Gary Bauer at a benefit dinner for Livingston County Right to Life. Bauer is the executive director of the Family Research Council which is spearheading a new national anti-gay tv ad campaign. According to the Triangle Foundation anti gay/lesbian hatecrimes in Michigan have increased at a 10% higher rate than the already disturbing national rate. Keep in mind this is not taking into account the 70 percent of anti-gay/lesbian hate crimes that go unreported.

In New York City over 4,000 protesters took over the streets in midtown for a "peaceful political funeral." After police refused to negotiate with march organizers, they attacked the crowd, beating many, and arresting nearly 150 demonstrators. Many of those arrested were denied access to their necessary medications, including those taking HIV/AIDS medications, which could have had potentially deadly consequences. In New York City the number of anti-gay/lesbian hate crimes have increased almost 100 percent.

We cannot let time go by and let our memory of Matt Shepard fade. In some ways he has become a symbol on a national level for the need for queer liberation movements to find more direct ways to confront bigots who perpetuate the lies that encourage young men and women to commit hate crimes.

Active Transformation advocates and works to build a movement to bridge the gap between the dispossessed majority of society. We want to build a multi-racial feminist working class pro-queer movement that can directly confront the bigots who organize for hate and murder. Direct action is the key. If we wait for congress to pass a bill for our protection we will have more dead comrades. We must act now in our communities, schools and workplaces to speak out against fascism, we must fight back, physically if necessary, to cripple the bigots ability to advocate and condone violence against lesbian women and gay men, against women, against people of color. They hide comfortably some behind money, some behind religion, but their outward political organizing encourages and condones, and often celebrates those who murder abortion providers, those people like Matt Shepard who were unashamed and proud of who he was, those people like James Byrd in Texas whose skin color was enough to earn him a death sentence, those women who are murdered by the thousands every year by their abusive partners. We must not allow them their comfort. The time for tolerance and patience is past. It is past time to intensify the struggle and take the struggle to their doorsteps.

UPDATE ON THE 20+ ANTI-RACISTS ARRESTED IN ANN ARBOR FOR THE MAY 9TH RALLY

When I contacted the lawyers representing the activists, they said the only new information is the dates of the felony cases. Miranda Massie, a lawyer for the activists said the court dates are as far ahead as May 1999. Massie also said she thought it looked good for the misdemeanor cases. Most of the misdemeanors are for damaging the fences surrounding city hall, she said. Massie said, the police are going to have a hard time proving the fence was damaged, since they had it destroyed. As far as the felony cases go, Massie feels the police don't have enough evidence to convict any of the accused. We have over 6,000 signatures on our petition, Massie said, and we recently even got the mayor of Flint to sign it. We still need as much support as we can get. If you can help out with any donations please send them to:

And also remember to call the Washtanaw county prosecutor and say "DROP THE CHARGES NOW!" the number is: 734.994.2380



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Minneapolis, MN 55408
\$1

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San Luis Obispo, CA 93404
\$1

Claustrophobia
PO Box 1721
Baltimore, MD 21203
\$1

On The Prowl
c/o Toronto ARA
PO Box 291,
Station B
Toronto, ON M5T 2T2
\$1

Active Transformation's Points of Unity

1 - Active Transformation (A.T.) is a revolutionary anarchist collective. While not everyone in the collective is anarchist, we are all anti-authoritarian, egalitarian, and anti-statist. We are in a state where the gap between the rich and the poor grows beyond imagination. Similarly the situation that Xicanos/ Latinos, Blacks, Native Americans, etc. face grows further and further away from those in White America. The treatment of women continues to differ significantly from the privileges which men enjoy, while constraining everyone's possibilities. The divide between those who exercise power over the lives of others and those who don't is visible in the conditions of the cities in which we live.

2 - We feel it is necessary to react in a revolutionary manner and self-organize within the collective. This system has nothing positive to offer except to a select few and must be kicked over in the hopes of creating a better, egalitarian society. By us taking the steps to self-organize we expect to be successful. In securing this success we recognize that this will not happen by chance but will take discipline, determination, analysis and a developed program.

3 - A.T. believes in revolutionary dual power. That is while we understand that it is important to kick over this system as soon as possible, we also understand that an egalitarian revolution will not occur unless there is something to fight for. We plan to show what the future society can look like through the development of counter institutions today.

4 - It is necessary to develop counter-institutions. This will challenge both the base of the current system by addressing peoples' daily lives (thus challenging its legitimacy) and our current social relations. Through these counter-institutions we will create other avenues towards revolution and create an accessible point for others to add their vision of a liberatory society with ours.

5 - We believe that revolutionary direct action is necessary to destroy our current situation. If we wish to change the world we must address what the real problems are, and to change them we must attack them at their root. To directly act on the problem in a way that would change our social relations in a revolutionary manner is revolutionary direct action.

6 - We are calling for an international mass movement organized locally in cells, collectives, etc. These groups should have disciplined members and clearly defined points of unity. We not only encourage these developments but see them as essential for the creation of a truly revolutionary force in our lifetime. Only through these entities can each of us give our voice to the future social revolution.

7 - We feel that autonomy and solidarity are two sides to the same coin. Autonomy gives individuals and groups the right to organize independently in formations that are not oppressive to others. Solidarity says that others shall respect that right to organize and that we will struggle along side them in the realization that our freedom and liberation is tied to that of others. Solidarity without autonomy can lead to nothing but reforms or authoritarian changes in power; not true liberation.

8 - We believe in self-defense. We feel that philosophies of violence and non-violence are tactical questions and when used definitively they tie ones hands. Although A.T. may find violence necessary to defend itself and others they are in solidarity with; it does not condone all forms of violence. Rape, queer bashing, racist attacks, working class on working class violence and theft are all unexcusable and will be stood up against, even if people consider themselves to be part of our "movement".

9 - We feel it is necessary to organize. We will organize to make social revolution possible. We will organize in our neighborhoods to defend our communities against the occupying force called cops. We will organize in our workplaces to develop workers' solidarity. We will organize to fight back against the class war that we loose at every day until we have gained the means of production. We will organize to create counter-institutions that will provide the community with what it needs in the spirit of human dignity and mutual aid. We will organize, educate, and confront racism, sexism, and homophobia in society until it is eradicated. We will educate and share the resources necessary for others to organize. We will organize to the point that social revolution seems inevitable; then we will exercise all our force and execute this rotten system, building a new egalitarian society in it's place

TOWARDS THE ELIMINATION OF ALL LANDLORDS, BIG AND SMALL

AN INTERVIEW WITH SCOTT FROM THE UNITED COMMUNITY HOUSING COALITION

AT: Can you give us a brief history of the UCHC.

SE: The UCHC started as a small non-profit in the Cass Corridor of Detroit 20 plus years ago and slowly grew into a city wide organization that garnered city block grant money that is funneled to non-profits from federal government assistance called city development block grant funds. So that has been going on now for 15 years, and during that time there has been three different directors of the organization.

AT: What are some of the basic things that you all do at the UCHC? and what is the average thing that you help people out with?

SE: O.K. there are 3 different areas that the housing coalition covers. One is housing housing placement; which is helping people who are in jeopardy of being evicted or are in the process of being evicted find suitable housing. That ties in with my job which is landlord/tenant counseling and tenant organizing, which are officially two different sections and receive different grants but overlap in that I do most of both of them.

Anyway, so what we do in the housing dispute and landlord/tenant division of the organization is offer counseling over the phones regarding landlord/tenant issues. We receive calls from actually all over the United States, mostly from Michigan. We receive calls from landlords, renters in the suburbs and city of Detroit tenants. And that is generally just a question/answer situation.

The rest of the time, most of the time, our intake is walk-ins and we actually take eviction cases and fight them in eviction court and try to get settlements, try to advocate strongly for the tenants rights as we can and basically try to get as much money as we can for the tenants and as much time as they need to find suitable housing, so they can get out of a cycle of poverty which includes unsafe and unfit housing which is a real problem in Detroit.

AT: What are some of the general things that most people don't know when dealing with a landlord?

SE: I would say the number one thing that most people don't do is write enough letters to their landlord. They try to resolve their problems verbally, which is a good idea if you are on good terms with your landlord, but once the situation becomes one of antagonism the only really proper way to deal with it at that point is written communication. For several reasons, one it keeps the problem from escalating into a physical situation between two people. It also can be used in court, if there is some kind of dispute over when requests were made to have certain repairs done, if there is a dispute over funds. But if that is documented in a letter and a copy is made of that, that has been signed and dated and sent appropriately through first class mail, that provides a potential judge or jury months down the road to have something objective to look at that is not two people telling their side of the story, which can quickly becomes a he said she said situation and end up being a situation where the landlords become victorious in the large majority. So that is what I would say is the major thing.

AT: Is there anything that people should look for in leases that bind them up?

SE: My answer to that is that there isn't a lease out there that cannot be broken in some ways, is the way I feel about it. If you want to get out of lease you should call our organization, you should get some ideas from us and some other people about writing your landlord trying to negotiate the power situation with your landlord where they would feel like they might actually loose something if they try to sue you over the money they think that you owe them for breaking a lease. So there are various ways to get around basically anything in a lease.

As far as the major things to look for, I mean the landlord cannot charge a security deposit that exceeds a month and a half of rent. That would include cleaning deposits, key deposits and all those things should not add up to more than a

its code violation or its code regulations. When landlords are renting property that is clearly for years not up to code and is in the public record as not up to code. The city never pursues fines. In fact ironically, the cases that are brought against landlords that have not done repairs, the landlords are actually appointed with court appointed attorneys that advocate for them and get reductions in their fines. The ironic thing about it is that tenants do not have access to public paid representation. So we have an underclass of people that need representation who are unrepresented by public money and we have a class of people who are property owners who can probably afford their own representation who are having paid representation at public expense. That is part of the problem.

Another part of the problem is that there is a lot of individuals out there and corporations that frankly take advantage of the situation to the extreme. Who realize that the city will never fine them, force them to fix up their property. Realize that the city doesn't have enough power to force the collection of its own city property taxes, that basically those can go into the rear for years and as long as the landlord pays of its state taxes then nothing can ever happen to them concerning losing their property. The city basically gets screwed by all this and I mean as a result the people who need the housing, decent housing obviously are the ones who get really screwed by all this. So it is a continuous cycle that perpetuates itself mainly because the landlords, certain slum landlords.

One of which is Rimco

Management which owns the most number of properties next to the City of Detroit in the city of Detroit. Rimco owns these properties but then they contract them out to private individuals who do property management and there motivated strictly by profit. How much they can get from a management fee to run a property, how much of that that they can put in their pocket depends on how little repairs they

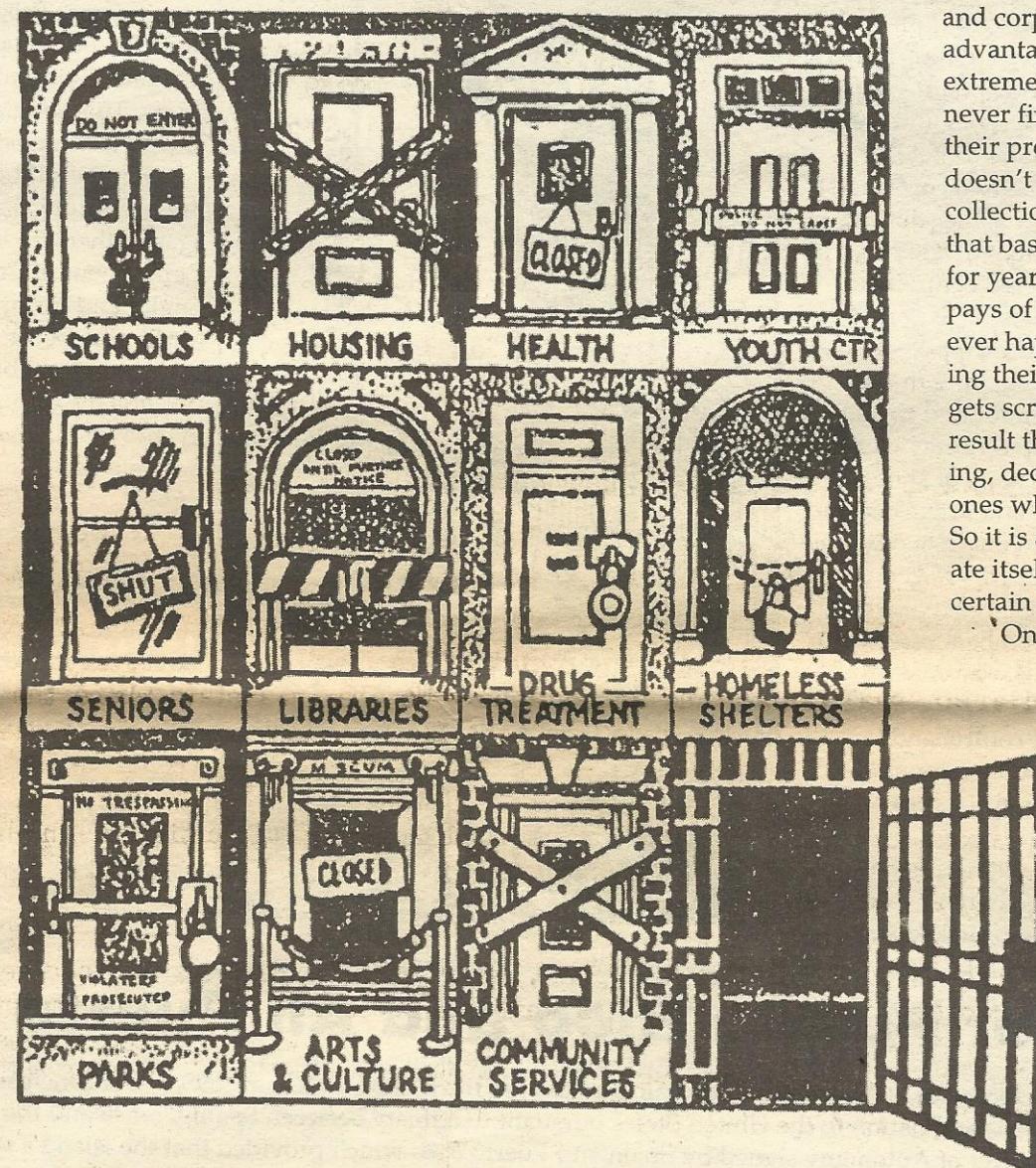
can get away with without their tenants getting pissed off enough that they stop paying rent or force them to go to court. Of course they are not afraid to go to court they have hundreds and hundreds of eviction cases every week in 36th District Court.

This also goes for Joy Management which is an even worse outfit and they are probably the third or fourth largest property owner in Detroit. Both of these organizations, the city has done nothing to try and curb their abuses for just the blatant exploitation of poverty in Detroit.

From my perspective I see that largely contributing to the stagnation of the housing problem and the improvement of housing that is supposed to happen when Detroit has its "Renaissance".

AT: Something I have had experience with is eviction. What are the legal steps and what are normally the illegal steps that landlords take in eviction?

SE: Well, the thing that is required for an eviction is an eviction notice first of all. An that is either a notice to pay your rent and that is a 7 day notice or a notice to vacate the property and that is a 30 day notice. Once that is filed and the time period has elapsed the landlord can file a case in court. Now it doesn't cost any money to serve someone with an eviction notice but it costs them \$50+ to file an eviction case. So we find that continued on page 9



- "THERE ISN'T A LEASE OUT THERE THAT CANNOT BE BROKEN IN SOME WAYS"

month and a half of the monthly rent.

You should also have an address for your landlord. Preferably a street address. You should really push your landlord to give you this. It will make them much more likely to be responsive to your concerns if they know that if they fucked up that they could get sued and that they would be easy to find for a lawsuit.

Other than that when you are entering into a leasing situation it is always good to have written terms about who is paying for the utilities, the different bills, gas, water electric, what the monthly rent is, if there is a late fee, etc. etc. Try to get those memorialized in a written document from your landlord. Don't be afraid to dispute things with them. And don't be afraid to call the UCHC, or other legal service organizations to get advice about whether or not a certain lease provision is a violation of your rights.

AT: What do you feel is a general overview of the housing situation in Detroit, especially for renters?

SE: There is definitely a dearth of decent affordable housing in Detroit. There is a lot of affordable housing but it is really in poor condition. The major reason for that other than Detroit is a depressed economy and has been for years, is the tragedy that the city does not do more to enforce

Michigan Prisoners Lost Major Property Issue

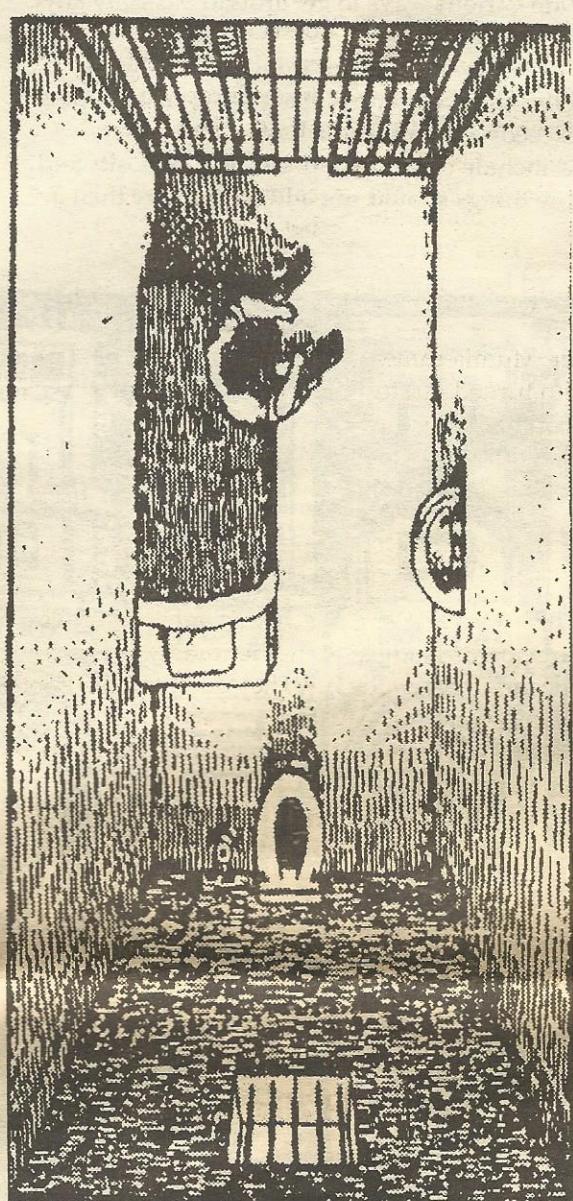
Michigan prisoners have been fighting a lawsuit in the Ingham County Circuit Court under the case title Cain V. MDOC for the past 12 or so years. This case was presided over by judge James R. Giddings and was started by Raymond Cain and was later turned into a class action case involving all of Michigan's prisoners. Men and wimmin.

The case involved prisoners litigating the MDOC regarding the restricting and taking of property from them that the MDOC had initially allowed them to have. In the past the case had won some victories but recently the court has ruled against the prisoners in many respects. As a result of a recent Court Order ruling, prisoners have been further restricted regarding what they can have in their possession.

Several prisons have already begun the massive shakedowns by ordering prisoners to pack all their belongings (including state-issued clothing not allowed to be taken from the prison during transfers, i.e., extra state pants, shirts and pajamas) into one duffel bag and/or personal foot locker (if they have one), or into two small containers which are supposed to be equal to one duffel bag. During the pack-up prisoners are ordered to pack their TV's (which actually would not be in a duffel bag, foot locker or container when they are transferred but will be placed in a separate box), radios, tape players, personal clothing, books, shoes and etc., and all else that does not fit into the duffel bag and/or personal foot locker or the two containers) which then they have to choose to either donate, have destroyed or sent home at the MDOC's expense. These items are considered contraband.

Prisoners in Michigan who have gone through this procedure have been stripped of hooded sweatshirts and sweaters, all clothing that is black or grey, and they have been limited to one coat and jacket (with the pack-up officers determining what was a jacket or coat), 3 pairs of shoes, non-black or grey baseball caps and knit caps, one pair of fingernail clippers, and so on. Items such as sewing machines or clothing that was sewed up or patched were not allowed. Appliances that weren't numbered with the prisoner 5 number correctly on them were destroyed, donated or sent out at the prisoner's expense. Wallets, coffee cups (once sold by the MDOC) were considered contraband. Finished hobbycraft items were no longer allowed to remain in the prison... and the story goes on and on.

On September 24, 1998, at the Carson City Correctional Facility aka O.T.F. (where i was recently housed), prisonkkkrats began to shakedown one



by Ali Khalid Abdullah
of the Political Prisoners of War Coalition

housing unit per day. First, second and third shift officers volunteered for this undertaking which was to last until October 5th when the entire process at that facility was to be finished. Reports have come in from other prisons across the state that the wardens of various prisons had completely locked down the entire prisons for this massive shakedown. Some wardens (because each warden has his own autonomy to a degree regarding what he will allow in his facility) have been running ram-shod over prisoners' personal items, taking away a lot of possessions. Just as at Carson City, while one pack-up team allows prisoner to have certain things, another pack-up team will deny other prisoners the same items. There is no consistency in the process. I see these maneuvers as a tool the prisonkkkrats are using to create hardships and bad feelings among the prisoner-class, as the prisonkkkrats are good at the "divide and conquer" tactics among the unconscious and unpoliticized prisoners.

However, it is the opinion of this PPWC member that what the MDOC is doing should be viewed as a tool prisoners can use to gain solidarity. These happenings should be looked upon as a means for bringing us closer-together, so that we'll begin to take seriously the implications of our incarceration and devise ways in which to make effective changes, spending less time playing games and watching soap operas. This should be an opportunity to apply seriously revolutionary study and learn discipline and self-restraint and become better and stronger thinkers and doers. This should not be construed as a defeat for prisoners but as a chance to gain insight.

Having said this, prisoners should also, however, continue to struggle against the oppression that is launched against them by this repressive regime. The Michigan Department of Corrections headed by governor John Engler and his prison Director (flunky) Kenneth L. McGinnis. Defeat is for those who have no plan to come back or to fight back again and again and again.

It is the position of this PPWC member that we engage in study and develop ourselves in such a way that we are not defeated in our next move for human rights and civil rights.

We welcome all comrades out there to share their opinions on this matter and to let us know what you think. You can contact us at: Raze The Walls!, 2351 College Station Road, Box 532, Athens, GA 30605; or write to R. Na'il Partee #162558, P. O. Box 480999, New Haven, MI 48048; or you can write directly to Ali Khalid Abdullah, #148130, Saginaw Correctional Facility, 9625 Pierce Road, Freeland, MI 48623.

In the trenches...
October 1998

Freedom For Puerto Rico and All Puerto Rican POWs

Puerto Rico has been a colony for 500 years, first of Spain and then of the United States. In 1898, at the conclusion of what is called the Spanish American war, Spain was forced to give the island nation to the United States pursuant to a treaty between Spain, France and the U.S. No one consulted the people of Puerto Rico, in violation of a Charter of Autonomy signed by Spain and Puerto Rico which provided that the island's status could not be altered without consulting the Puerto Rican people. The US military declared martial law, installed a US governor, and began a program to alter and destroy the fiber of Puerto Rico. Over the years, the US destroyed Puerto Rico's agrarian economy; imposed citizenship on its people; drafted its men into the US army to fight US wars; imposed the teaching of the English language and US history on its students; polluted its air, land, and water; sterilized women; and installed 21 US military bases on some of the best land.

As with people in all colonial contexts, there have always been Puerto Ricans who have sought to gain their national sovereignty. These women and men are part of this long history of resistance. This resistance, whether the mere advocacy of independence or the taking up of arms, has been criminalized, and punished throughout the years by harassment, imprisonment, and even execution.

In the United States between 1980 and 1985 a wave of arrests occurred. Fifteen Puerto Rican revolutionaries were arrested and convicted of acting or conspiring to act in favor of independence for Puerto Rico. Eleven of them, with sentences of 55 to 105 years, are serving sentences 19 times longer than the average sentence given the year they were sentenced. At some point during the service of their sentences, they have been subjected to cruel, and degrading prison conditions, held in prisons far from their families, shuffled between maximum security prisons, sexually assaulted, denied medical care, or buried in solitary confinement or control units designed to physically, psychologically and politically destroy them. And they have had to watch from afar as their children grew up without them, or their parents and family members suffered from terminal illnesses and died.

Throughout the 1970's these activists fought against racism and worked to improve access to quality education. They fought to create community institutions: alternative education programs, child care facilities, health services, housing co-ops, and participated in student groups and committees against repression. The consequences of their political actions were severe: Firing from jobs, forced abandonment of careers, expulsion from school, attacks by the police and the FBI, and after their arrest, being branded as terrorists and placed in some of the worst prisons in the US. One former prisoner, Antonio Camacho Negron was released in February, 1998. There are now currently fourteen people still in prison on seditious conspiracy charges. In the US alone there are over 100 political prisoners and prisoners of war. These people are heroes and not criminals, their freedom is a necessary step towards a truly democratic and free society. For more information or just to show support here are the addresses of the Puerto Rican prisoners.

Edwin Cortes
#92153-024
Ricardo Jimenez
#88967-024 (A-2)
Alberto Rodriguez
#92150-024 (B-3)
USP Lewisburg
PO Box 1000
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Ida Luz Rodriguez
#88973-024
Carmen Valentin
#88974-024
FCI Dublin
5701 8th Street
Camp Parks
Dublin, CA 94568

Elizam Escobar
#88969-024
FCI El Reno, Unit One
PO Box 1500
El Reno, OK 73036

Luis Rosa
#88975-024
PO Box 1000
USP Leavenworth
Leavenworth, KS 66048

Oscar Lopez Rivera
#87651-024
USP Marion
PO Box 1000
Marion, IL 62959

Juan Segarra Palmer
#15357-077
FCI Coleman
PO Box 818
Coleman, FL 33521

Adolfo Matos Antongiorgi
#88968-024
USP Lompoc
3901 Klein Blvd.
(Unit J)

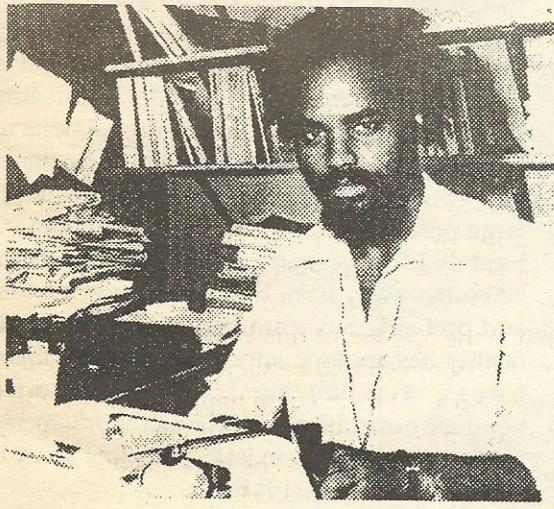
Alejandrina Torres
#92152-024
FCI Danbury
Pembroke Station
Danbury, CT 06811

Dylcia Pagan
#88971-024
Alicia Rodriguez
#88972-024
Carlos Alberto Torres
#88976-024
FCI Oxford
PO Box 1000
Oxford, WI 53952

F R E E M U M I A - A B U J A M A L

Mumia's Story

Mumia Abu Jamal as a teenager was committed to the liberation of Black people; he joined the Black Panther Party in Philadelphia in the late 1960s. Later he turned to broadcast journalism, reporting for a local Philly radio station. In 1978 he stirred up the wrath of the mayor and ex-police commissioner, Frank Rizzo, by reporting both sides of the police raid on the MOVE organization (where 11 MOVE members were convicted for one cop's murder). Because of his reporting he became known as the "Voice of the Voiceless". The FBI had been collecting files on Mumia since he was 15. 700 pages of files later, and with



the cooperation of the Philly cops, the authorities framed him up for the killing of a cop.

At the end of 1981, while moonlighting as a cab driver, Mumia came upon a dispute between a Philly cop and a Black motorist, who turned out to be Mumia's brother. When Mumia arrived on the scene, the cop had already beaten Mumia's brother with a flashlight. In the struggle which followed, one police officer, Faulkner, was shot dead, and Mumia was seriously wounded with Faulkner's gun. Mumia was beaten, arrested, and taken to the hospital.

In the investigation which followed, the gun which was used was never found. Moreover, at least four eyewitnesses reported another man fleeing the scene. No attempt was made to find this man.

Mumia was sent to trial on an intentional murder charge before Judge Albert Sabo in 1982. Sabo has the distinction of having sentenced more people to death than any other judge in the country (31 total, only 2 were white). The prosecution's case rested mainly on the statement of four eyewitnesses, some of questionable background (two prostitutes with charges against them, and a man previously convicted of throwing a molotov cocktail into a public school), who gave conflicting accounts. One possible witness for Mumia, the police officer who accompanied him to the hospital and whose report would have contradicted the account of the prosecution's witnesses, was denied him.

In fact, any decent representation was denied Mumia. Halfway through jury selection Sabo barred Mumia from representing himself and shut

him out of the court into another room where he could not hear nor otherwise follow the proceedings. The judge then appointed an unwilling attorney to take over the defense with no preparation.

Unsurprisingly Mumia was found guilty of murder.

His sentence of death was contributed to the prosecutors unconstitutional use of Mumia's political beliefs. He argued that since Mumia was an Ex-Black Panther, and that all Black Panthers always wanted to kill a police officer, the murder was premeditated. This made the case first degree murder case and open for the death penalty.

1995

In 1995, Mumia was served a death warrant by Governor Thomas Ridge. A worldwide mass movement rose up to demand that Mumia live.

From Maine to California, and from Europe to Africa people took to the streets. Prominent figures took action, from the Prime Minister of Germany calling President Clinton on Mumia's behalf, to Jesse Jackson actually visiting Judge Sabo's court room.

Ten days before Mumia was scheduled to be executed, Judge Sabo signed his first ever stay of execution.

Mumia lived.

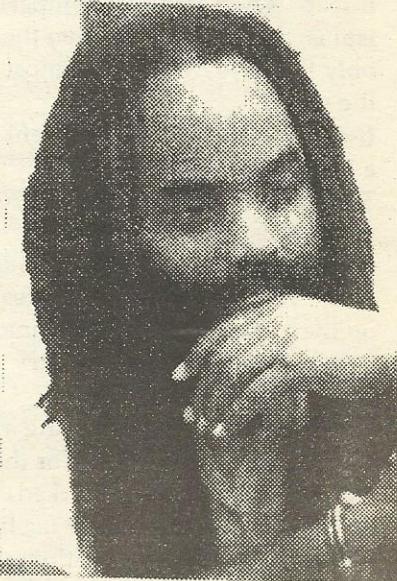
But was still in jail.

Where Are We Now

On October 29th the Pennsylvania Supreme Court (PSC) denied Mumia a new trial. In their decision they found that:

- They denied testimony of every single witness who said that the shooter was another man.
- They accepted testimony of every single prosecutor witness, even those that changed their story.
- They did not see a problem with the prosecutor's illegal and racist jury selection.
- They saw no problem with Mumia's constitutional right to defend himself in court being denied in 1982.

His lawyers are appealing this decision. After the PSC addresses this appeal a death warrant could be signed. This could happen within days.



JUSTICE FOR ANARCHIST PRISONER AARON KRIZANIK

Aaron Krizanik a young prisoner activist in Pennsylvania has worked with Books Through Bars, a prisoner literature program, for two years now. He has always strived to reach out and share progressive knowledge to prisoners around him. In his current prison he has been instrumental in forming a multi-racial educational reading circle.

When he was confined last year at S.C.I. Albion, he was accused of hitting a prison guard. This did not happen, in fact Aaron's head was slammed against the wall for not taking off his headphones fast enough for this petty tyrant. We believe the charges are an attempt to harass and disrupt his social justice work. In fact the charges were so groundless no one expected it to come to trial. When it did, Aaron was successful in having several other prisoners agree to testify in his behalf against the guards. Now that the trial has started, guards at both the Erie County Jail (where prisoners awaiting trial are held) and S.C.I. Albion have started to threaten and beat these witnesses. It is vital for Aaron's case that this intimidation be stopped. Please write or call the following individuals as soon as possible and ask that an investigation of abuse and intimidation of the defenses witnesses in the case of Aaron Krizanik CZ8320 be carried out immediately!

Write to:

District Attorney Joseph Conti
140 West 6th St.
Erie PA 16501-1011
(814) 451-6000

Chief Deputy Attorney General Trent Hargrove
Civil Rights Enforcement Section
14th Floor Strawberry Square
Harrisburg PA 17120
(717)787-0822

Commissioner Martin Horn
P.O.Box 598
Camp Hill PA 17001-0598
(717)975-4859

Please write and send your support to:
Aaron Krizanik CZ8320 at
1600 Walters Mill Road
Somerset PA 15510

TAKE A STAND AGAINST INJUSTICE
THE CASE OF JOAQUIN

On Thursday, May 14, 1998, the Detroit police arrested and charged Joaquin Ramos with interfering with a city official. Joaquin is a well-known activist and member of the Brown Berets de Aztlan of Southwest Detroit. It is because of his involvement with the Brown Berets and his knowledge and education of the law that Joaquin was targeted by the police.

Joaquin saw his cousin outside a store on that day. As he walked up to speak with his cousin and two others, the police pulled up. For no apparent reason, the police had all four of the youth put their hands on the squad car while they were searched. However, the officer taking the action did not search Joaquin, and when he opened one of the youths bottle of beer, which he had just bought minutes previously, he charged all three, but not Joaquin with open intoxicants. When the officer returned to the squad car to write tickets, Joaquin spoke openly to the three. He said a little about what he knew their rights to be, how this situation was surely harassment, and suggested that he could probably get advice on how to proceed with a complaint against the police for this harassment. He told them above all, to keep quiet and "just be cool".

When the officer returned, he placed Joaquin under arrest. After giving little concern for Joaquin, suddenly the officer perceived him as a threat because he was educated on his rights and encouraged others to do the same. The officer revealed this prejudice when he told Joaquin, on the way to the police station, "Now your rights are about to be violated."

Although Joaquin repeatedly asked what he was being charged with, the officer did not have an answer for him. After arriving at the police station the officer disappeared for a time, presumably to confer with other higher-ranking officers what he should charge Joaquin with. Joaquin is guilty of knowing his rights and trying to exercise them.

Joaquin was targeted because he decided to stand up for his rights and the rights of others. Joaquin never interrupted the officers or treated them in any way disrespectfully. It was not until he was arrested that he began to demand to be told what he was charged with. The police railroaded him because in their eyes, urban youth should not question authority, even when their civil rights are being violated.

His story shows that day in and day out, there are people in the community of the Southwest who are unaware of their rights and fall victim to such police harassment, and unfair charges, often landing people in jail.

The charges against Joaquin are a violation of free speech, and the right to associate with political organizations. The Brown Berets de Aztlan along with other activists in the city intend to see that the charges get dropped against Joaquin and all other victims of police harassment.

GET WITH THE CASE
CONTACT THE XICANO DEVELOPMENT CENTER @ 313.841.0838
PACK THE COURTROOM FEB. 23RD, 1999. 36TH DISTRICT COURT

component is gone. All products, whether created out of raw materials or simply assembled, are now exempt from duties. This is a direct cause of people fleeing Mexico for real jobs in the north.

The entire purpose of NAFTA is to eliminate factory jobs in America where workers get benefits, decent wages, and pension plans, and open plants in Mexico, where wages are about \$1.50 an hour, benefits and occupational safety are almost non-existent, and unions are too numerous and unorganized to be effective. It also clearly has little to nothing to do with the few Mexicans who manage to make it across the border. They are not the threat. NAFTA and U.S. imperialism is, and has always been the only threat to Mexico and most of the world.

Increased Border Enforcement as a Measure of Domination

The measure of a country's investment in its border patrol and enforcement is a direct indication of the value that country places on the exploitation and domination of its neighboring country. Since 1993, the budget has increased 142 percent totaling a 1998 budget of 3.6 billion for the INS. 419 million is earmarked towards increasing border facilitation and patrol at the Southwest border. This increases the staff positions for 1998 alone by 1,570,

to total 28,000 positions by the end of this year. Total Border Patrol agents total 7,000 by the end of this year. Reinforced borders are to be blamed for the murder of people who would not seek to leave their homes and lives if the dominating country did not chase the people from their ancestral land.

Operation Gatekeeper

The I.N.S. expansion is put into ground-level action by "force-multiplying technological capabilities" at the border. Since 1996, the I.N.S. has employed a form of "technology" enforcement program entitled "Operation Gatekeeper". The U.S. Border Patrol which used to be run primarily by anglo's, is for the first time headed by a Mexican-American, Gustavo de la Vina. Gatekeeper is in his words a "get-tough" model of immigration enforcement which he directs. It includes using dozens of stadium lights, portable generators and high-tech equipment including night-vision goggles and hundreds of agents in a 14-mile line along the border. With the help of the Army Corps of Engineers, de la Vina got bulldozers to scrape a 120-yard-wide strip along 11 miles on the U.S. side. The agents stake out the area in four-wheel-drive trucks. What this high-tech police enforcement really represents is a modern day, draconian screening process, which weeds out the weak. The message is clear, if you aren't fit enough to cross mountains, withstand extreme weather conditions and drought, America doesn't need your services, and you can perish at the border trying.

Of the thousands who used to be arrested each night, now only 17 people per night are caught attempting to cross. On November 2, the Day of the Dead, of this year, people staged a memorial for individuals who have died trying to cross into the land of "freedom" since the implementation of Operation Gatekeeper in 1994. 345 white crosses were carried with the names of those who have died trying to cross along the California/Baja California border since Operation Gatekeeper four years ago. Deaths are caused by extreme heat, cold and drownings, but 4 from the use of deadly force by the Border Patrol. This is an increase of 52% over last year.

Before de la Vina could be assured of numerous arrests, now he can be assured that many of those who actually do try to cross have a good chance of dying. This number only represents those who did actually cross into the U.S. side of the border. There is no way to estimate the number of those who die in the mountainous region on the Mexican side of the border, caused by thirst, hypothermia, and attacks by wild dogs and other animals.

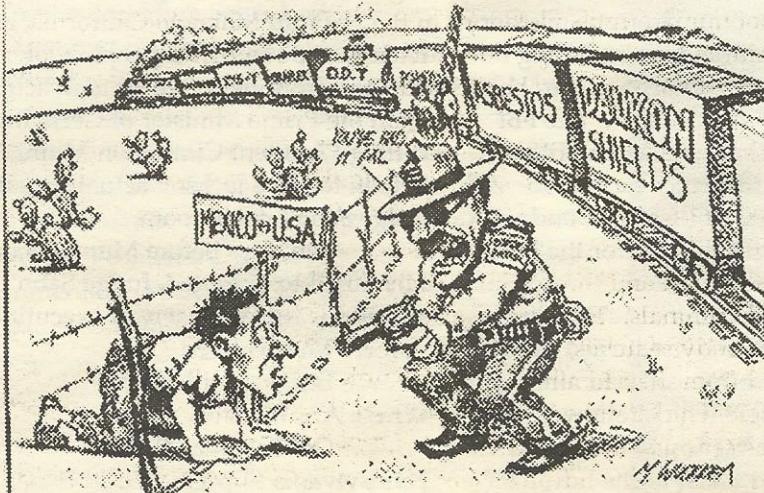
Re-defining Refugee

The Border created by the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848 redrew the most recent line in the sand and the U.S. gained New Mexico and Arizona for just \$15 million. The treaty calls for the amicable treatment of each other's citizens and for recognition of their integrity as nations. The reality of

the border today is a highly reinforced and electrically charged, modern Berlin Wall and NAFTA is the cause for this repression.

Anyone fleeing such economic exploitation and deprivation, is a refugee. A refugee from their own land, forced to leave because of forced poverty growing out of the lack of ownership and rights to one's own property. This is the story of Mexico, a country whose government works for their own pocket book at the expense of the people. Since NAFTA, Mexicans have been forced out of farming because government subsistence violates the integral NAFTA

DRUG RUNNERS - AT THE BORDER



component and into the unprotected factories of post-industrial, colonizing America.

Immigration Law: The new definition of "presence" in the U.S.

New laws have thrown immigrants into impossible situations.

Entry It used to be, if you lived and worked and had a family in, say, Texas, that seemed to be a good indication you were in the United States of America. Today, you could be dead in the center of Kansas, and if you did not chat with customs and immigration on the way in, you are tagged by the INS as never having entered the U.S.

This creates a couple of clear problems:

1- Civil Rights : You have none, and your protection under them is slim to none. Because you are not really here, even though you are physically present, your only rights arise when the Government gives you some. This is true because of the notion of "sovereignty of nations", which means that the federal government (of this and every other country) can determine how it will conduct its relations with other countries, and this is not determined by local law, federal law, the Bill of Rights, or any other legislation which affects American born people. Under immigration law since 1996, you have a right to a hearing, but not within any specified time. You have a right to a lawyer, but one won't be appointed for you. You have a right to know these rights, but there is no promise that anyone will tell you what they are.

2- International Law : This violates the belief that while in a foreign country you are protected by its laws, while being subject to them. If you are in America and you didn't "enter" correctly and you commit some petty crime, the repercussions are entirely different than if you are a citizen. If you plead guilty, you'll be punished, and probably deported right when you finish serving your time.

In other situations, your limited right to Due Process can deny you the right to have access to the charges being used against you. The only thing you are guaranteed is a jail cell. If you are lucky you might get a ticket back to your homeland, or, if you can prove an asylum claim, but the U.S. still denies you the right to enter, you have the right to be deported to an alternative country of your choice. But either way, the most likely scenario is you will sit in a jail cell for a long time.

The hypocrisy of this two-sided system is evident in the case of field workers on high-profit farms. In May of this year the I.N.S. carried out raids on Vidalia onion farms in southern Georgia. The crop, worth about \$90 million is generally picked by undocumented workers. When the raids began, growers contacted their congressmen and two responded, one senator and one representative, both republicans. They came rushing home to stop the raids. The I.N.S. agreed to stop all operations until next year.

Prisons for Profit-POW Camps

If you make it past the border and reach "Freedom" prison may await, if you don't lay-low. And the increase of this incarcerated, non-criminal population is expected to rise so quickly, that constructing new buildings may take more time, and cost more money than the INS is willing to invest in. There are reports that around the country, World War II German and Italian POW camps are being renovated. Can you doubt that a genocidal war is being fought against poor and desperate victims of American-Imperialist racism? In Michigan, there is a report that a construction program has been going on under the name of "Operation Gateway". High security is in place with a large portion of the base closed to civilian view. It is located 20 miles south of Marquette, Michigan about 500 miles away from Detroit, an Immigration Judge and probably, any immigration lawyers. Another facility has above ground runways that form a perimeter triangle. Few buildings appear on the surface, but ventilators can be seen. Civilian workers report that a subsurface facility exists. Does this seem like truth or the fiction of a sci-fi flick?

The repressive measures taken by the U.S. and other western countries today is resulting in the unjust imprisonment of hundreds of human beings guilty of commanding respect and equal treatment of members of the world-wide community. Detained non-criminal immigrants are becoming an increasing percentage of prisoners held in America today. All people detained by the I.N.S. represent the fastest-growing segment of US jail population. While the increase of federal and state inmates slowed in 1997 to 5.2%, the number of people in I.N.S. custody rose by 42%. In 1997 detention beds totaled over 12,000. By September 9, 1998 the total was 16,000.

The I.N.S. expects that 170,000 undocumented workers and immigrants will pass through the system by the end of 1998. This number is double that of four years ago and is at a yearly cost of \$692 million for detainment and processing.

Two-thirds of detainees are held in local jails. Although the government increased the number of people to be detained, no money was set aside to build detention centers, so instead the I.N.S. was authorized to "rent" beds from local jails at an average cost of \$60 per day in Michigan and nation-wide. Michigan holds 1,600 immigrants at any time, at a cost to taxpayers of \$96,000 per day.

Immigration law is an enforcement weapon employed by Border Patrol and other agents, which is more powerful than that of any city or state cop. Detainees often aren't even informed of their right to a hearing or about how to obtain one because the INS chose to enforce its regulations requiring this information be provided only in INS run detention centers. This is especially damaging for the asylum seeker, because the right to make the claim is limited to one year after arrival. For privately run prisons in Michigan it is in their interest to keep people uninformed of their rights, when longer waiting periods mean more profits for corporations such as the ACA (American Corrections Association) and the conditions of detention are less hospitable than the Humane Society.

The Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center documented severe abuse of detainees. Immigrants have suffered verbal and physical abuse by guards including the story of one person being shackled spread-eagle to a concrete bed, face down. He was next zapped with a 50,000-volt riot shield and left there for 17 hours. Many have seen people shock

with this shield or stun guns which are designed for use during riots. Others have been beaten, cursed with anti-immigrant comments and racial epithets and arbitrarily placed in solitary confinement for weeks at a time.

In New York, after spending a year imprisoned by the I.N.S. in a hotel in Queens, New York City, a group of 17 deaf Mexican immigrants including four children voluntarily deported the U.S. and returned to Mexico. You may have heard the story of these immigrants who were a part of a group of 57 deaf Mexican immigrants who were taken into police custody after four of them told police they were being held as slaves, forced to sell trinkets in New York City's subway system. Those convicted of the abuse, immigrants themselves, were ordered to pay \$1 million to their victims.

Detainees have responded with hunger strikes in at least three detention centers. As well as rioting in a Texas facility. (see article) On September 19, 94 of 268 detainees in an Elizabeth, New Jersey detention center began a hunger strike to protest detention policies and conditions, including inadequate food supplies and excessive telephone charges. The I.N.S. officials responded by closing the facility to outsiders, including lawyers. By October 2, the number had dropped to 22 strikers. Although the I.N.S. is holding four for disciplinary actions for inciting people not to eat, organizers have said that no one was intimidated into not eating, and some were even told

parole pending a hearing for the asylum claim, the rest are forced to await their hearing from behind bars. This represents a significant drop in parole granted. In March the parole approval rate dropped to 24% from 89% in fall of 1996.

The people held in both of these facilities are non-criminal immigrants.

Abuses and International Law violations recently recorded by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch

In its 37 year history Amnesty International, the letter writing campaign organization extraordinaire, held a policy of only addressing international issues. It broke with policy this year when the organization decided to do an in-depth report on America, entitled "Human Rights Concerns in the USA". It could not have been hard for this mainstream, politically correct organization to state, in its opening paragraphs, that the charges of human rights violations in the US were "shocking", and committed without regard for international standards. Because of Amnesty's liberal politics, including its limited definition of political prisoner, this document must and can only be useful when its strength is recognized to be its ability to attract a large (albeit liberal and philanthropic) audience. Amnesty attests to the criminal treatment of individuals who arrive as asylum seekers. "For reception", these people are likely to be shackled and thrown into jail by the INS, often with convicted criminals. They are also subjected to solitary confinement and body searches, yet denied parole. Children are often separated from their families. One example is of a 13 year-old who fled Sri Lanka and was "disappeared" by government soldiers. First the government stuck him in a hotel in New York

with strangers, then, without the knowledge of his mother, he was sent to a detention facility in Florida. All of this occurred after a credible fear had been determined, and asylum had been granted to his mother.

The reports of Amnesty and HRW, while upsetting, must also be taken for what they are, reports compiled by lefty-liberals, funded from rich corporate individuals and trust funds, and published with little result, other than the good conscience that the damn things were published at all.

For a real and extensive report of INS tactics that destroy families, communities and any belief left possible under this racist system called the US government, see the NNIRR report: "Portrait of Injustice: The Impact of Immigration Raids on Families, Workers, and Communities." The report documents true stories.

Conclusion

People don't leave their homes and families with the "stars in their eyes" Americans associate with such migration. This isn't a Gold Rush of the 21st century. It's a means of survival. At Check-Point Charlie in Berlin, there is a museum which commemorates the thousands of way people used to flee the economic oppression enforced on them by their own country and of the eastern dictators. It's impossible to imagine that a family who built a parachute out of their own clothing was facing anything other than a desperate situation. This is the situation of Mexicans today. America has created a super high-tech Berlin wall of the 1990's lined with 600 sensor detectors, to send a clear message, unless you are white and English speaking, America will invest millions and billions of dollars to see that you die trying to escape the economic exploitation your country suffers because of U.S. greed. Nothing on the northern border reflects such oppression, and Canadians clearly enjoy a similar economic prosperity and do not have the need to flee in such desperation either.

What would cause this country to do

such things to Mexicans? Is it America's concern for employment here? This seems unlikely. There have always been jobs reserved for "new-comers" to this country, albeit low in wage, but jobs as stepping-stones. And in this country, where the belief that the higher the demand, the higher the production, it does not even make economic sense to promote such disdain for our brothers and sisters south of the border.

So, why would America and American politicians concern themselves so extensively with building borders, when world-wide, the push is to bring them

continued on page 10

LOCAL ATTACKS ON IMMIGRANTS: DETROIT'S MEXICAN BARRIOS

It's nothing new to reports of attacks on immigrants that the information here cannot be confirmed. Because raids and deportations destroy families, often legally permanent residents return to their native land to follow their spouses who are coerced into signing voluntary departure forms, without ever consulting with an attorney. Many of these reports were compiled by Father May, of Holy Redeemer Church in Southwest Detroit.

SUN AND FUN AT PATTON PARK

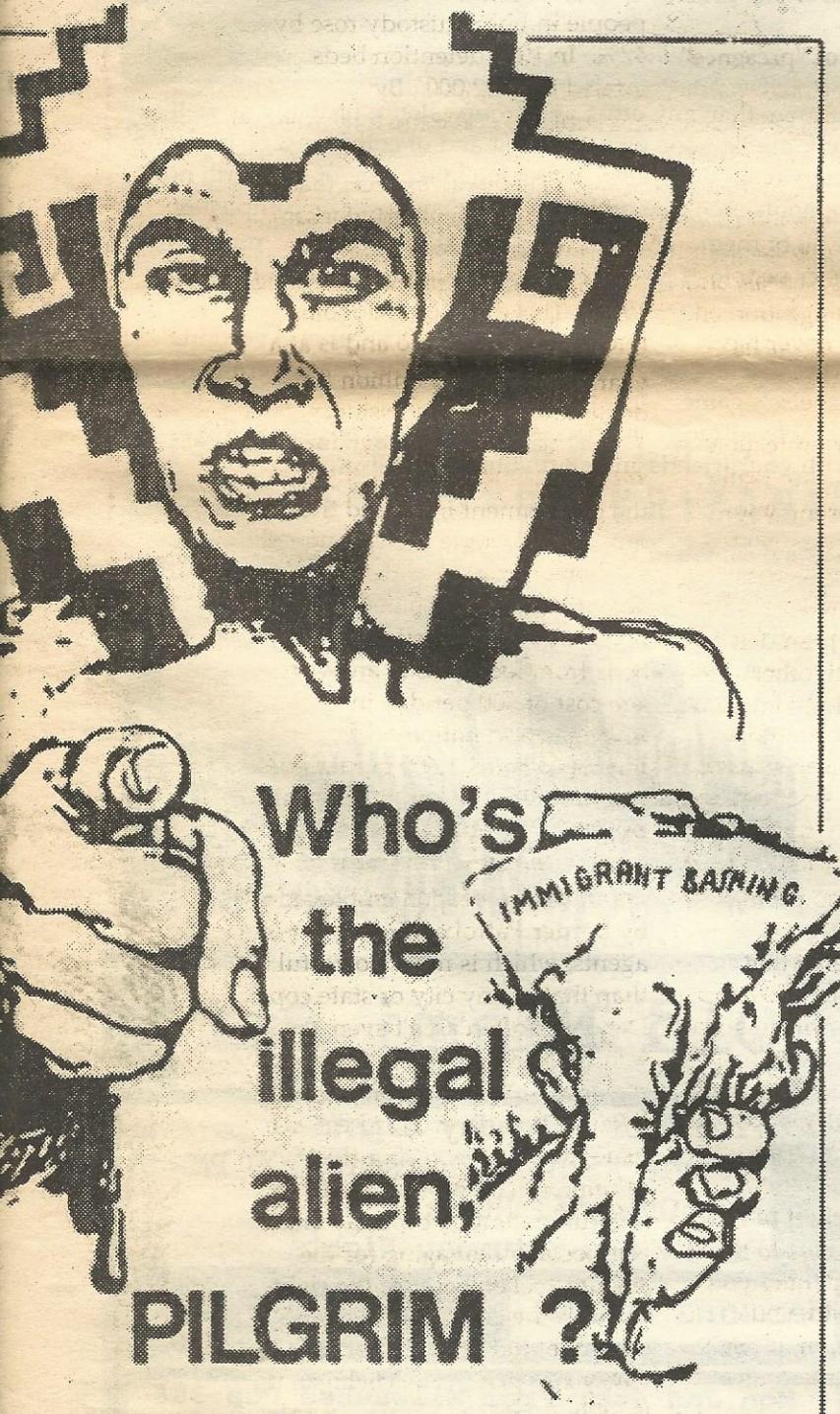
At Patton Park this past summer, a popular place for impromptu soccer games, Detroit cops rolled up, questioned soccer players (who are mostly Hispanic) and then threatened to call the INS. Clearly, undocumented people are stronger in groups as all of we are, but if the INS asks for papers, they can throw an individual in jail on the belief that the crossed the border without passing through border officials. While a regular cop must witness or have proof that someone committed a crime or misdemeanor, the INS can lock you up because you didn't fulfill your burden of proving you are here legally.

THE RISK OF STUDYING OF ENGLISH AT CHURCH

Father May was told of 6 people who were questioned and then picked up in the parking lot behind of the church rectory after attending English language classes. Father May inquired about the incident and reached local INS officials who denied the incident, then came up with a name of one of the persons picked-up who had since "voluntarily" departed. By the time Father May reached the home of the individual, his wife had already left, to rejoin her husband.

LUNA'S BAKERY

Out front of one of the numerous bakeries in the Southwest side, two people were questioned by I.N.S. Because they could prove they were legit, they were not messed with. The best advice is that when confronted by I.N.S., don't answer ANYTHING and if they take you into custody, don't say ANYTHING and demand to talk to a lawyer. There is no reason to explain, because no human being is illegal, and the chances are, the I.N.S. is violating its own rules, so take note of what occurs and wait to talk to a lawyer.



that they could be supportive even if they did not feel they could join the hunger strike.

On October 5, 100 asylum seekers went on a hunger strike at an I.N.S. detention center run by Wackenhut Corrections Corporation near JFK airport in Queens, New York. This strike was in protest of the low number of parole granted to people who are already able to prove a "credible fear" of persecution in their homelands. Of the 373 who established the "credible fear" standard, only 21% were granted

The Kydz Are Alright

Since the beginning of time the young people of the world have taken charge and fought for what they believe in. In the 1960's and 70's the high school and college students of America stood up against racist governments and protested against the U.S. involvement in Vietnam because they knew that it was wrong. On February 1, 1960, four black students entered a Woolworth store and sat down in an area that was designated for whites only. The students came back the next day and did the same thing. They ignored all the white bigots who dangled confederate flags and shouted racial slurs at them. This led to blacks all over the south sitting in whites only areas of restaurants. On May 10, over four months after the first students defied the segregation laws, six Nashville-restaurants desegregated. This was one of the first victories of the civil rights movement. Three years earlier in Little Rock, Arkansas, nine black students enrolled, themselves in the all white Central High School. When they arrived the first day of school, they were met by 150 National Guardsmen behind high powered rifles with orders from the governor not to let the students in. Three weeks later the students returned after the governors decision was overturned. They were greeted by a mob of over 2,000 people shouting racial slurs. They attended the school despite all of the hatred they had to endure. Even though this was thirty or forty years ago, problems still exist for all the youth of the world. Problems like police brutality and harassment, lack of jobs, environmental destruction, racism, sexism, and homophobia are all problems that effect young people. One of the best ways to learn how to solve and deal with these problems is to listen to people who know more about being revolutionaries and who have been around longer.

In order to have a successful movement we need a diverse group of ages and all experience. If we listen to people who have been around longer then we will know what we can do to be more involved and how we can make a positive impact. If we show the people who are holding us back that we will not tolerate anything less than total equality, that will show that we are a group that is not willing to be fucked with.

All the problems we face are overcomeable if we set ourselves to them and don't give up no matter what happens. Police brutality effects young people more than any other age group. Police brutality as well as harassment effects youth of color who live in the inner cities because the cops think that anyone who is young and of color must be breaking the laws. In a different way, the destruction of our environment may hurt us more than anything else. If we don't take care of our earth now then it won't even be here for our future generations. Racism, sexism, and homophobia are three problems that may never be completely solved because there are a lot of stupid people in the world and we can't change all of them. The best ways to deal with these problems is to educate people and to show people other ways of doing things. Nazis and other people of the far right may intimidate us but if we let them discourage us from working to have a liberated society than they won.

Another major problem facing American students is the brain washing that our schools do to us, I am not saying to reject everything you learn in school as a lie but some of the things we are taught is not the truth because the only side you hear is that of the government. If we believe all the bullshit that we are told than we will just be pawns in someone else's game.

What we, as the kydz of the world can do is to get involved with groups like Active Transformation, Anti-Racist Action, etc. If these groups don't exist in your areas than I encourage you to organize in your area with your friends and start your own collective.

See you at school

Eric-15

Active Transformation



SEMIRA ADAMU DIED ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND AT ABOUT 9PM AT ST. LUC CLINIC IN BRUSSELS. SHE HAD BEEN IN A COMA FOR SEVERAL HOURS FOLLOWING AN ATTEMPT TO DEPORT HER BY FORCE BY THE BELGIAN POLICE UNDER THE ORDERS OF THE IMMIGRATION OFFICE ("OFFICE DES ESTRANGERS"). SHE WAS 20 YEARS OLD.... SHE HAD FLED FROM NIGERIA BECAUSE HER FAMILY WERE TRYING TO FORCE HER TO MARRY A 65- YEAR OLD POLYGAMIST. SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN HIS

FOURTH WIFE. SHE HAD REPEATEDLY SOUGHT REFUGE IN TOGO BUT HAD BEEN BROUGHT BACK TO NIGERIA EACH TIME. THEN, ON MARCH 25TH, 1998, WITH THE HELP OF SOME FRIENDS SHE ARRIVED IN BELGIUM. SHE WAS IMMEDIATELY REFUSED ACCESS TO BELGIUM SOIL. ALL SHE EVER KNEW OF BELGIUM WAS THE AIRPORT AND A DETENTION CENTER FOR "ILLEGAL FOREIGNERS", SITUATED AT 127 BIS DE STEENOKKERZEEL. THIS WAS THE SIXTH TIME THAT THE BELGIAN AUTHORITIES HAD TRIED TO DEPORT HER. THE REASON FOR THE REFUSAL TO ALLOW HER TO ENTER BELGIUM IS THAT (GET THIS..) THE GENEVA CONVENTION DOES NOT SAY ANYTHING SPECIFIC ABOUT CASES OF ILL-TREATMENT OF WOMEN....

Old Miami Bar

Free Pool - Monday nights
B-Movie Night - Thursday 9:00 PM
Live Original Music -
Friday and Saturday Nights

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Mon Jan 4th: From Milwaukee Cup 388 and Litell Zippers from Arizona
- Fri. Jan 8th: Hillsdale Stranglers
- Sat. Jan 9th: SpedRock, Dige, Footlong
- Sat. Jan 23rd: Deadly Snakes from Toronto, Hi ToneKicks and Hard Liquors
- Sun. Jan. 31st: Durian from DC
- Fri. Feb 5th: Pavement and 24/7 Records presents Master from AZ and Requiem from LV

UCHC continued from page 3 a lot of landlords who tend to rent to lower income people who are not as likely to express their rights to the landlord or don't feel they have the power to do that are often times forced out of their property prior to court by what is called "self-help" eviction, which is another word for illegal lock outs. Which is something we deal with on a daily basis at our organization. People coming in, their landlord has disconnected their water, tampered with their electricity or gas service, has made threats to throw them out of their property which has caused a psychological situation where if they leave the property they feel they could come back and have their life put out in the street for everyone of their neighbors to clean up after. That is something that not to many of us would like to live in that kind of fear, so it becomes a very powerful way to motivate people to leave property without legal eviction procedures. So that is the biggest way in which landlord violate tenants rights.

Then there is the problem when they go to court and they misrepresent their interest in the property. We find a lot of landlords when we go to do title searches that they never really owned the property, they have just taken it over. Whether it is vacant property, city property, property that some relative of theirs owned at some time that they never bothered to clear up the title on are trying to run it as if it is their own. And the courts could care less.

The judges see hundreds of cases a day and the quicker they get through the eviction cases the more time they can spend on the golf course or read their paper, so it becomes like a kangaroo court. I mean you go in and it is mock justice, you know.

AT: Earlier you talked about the landlord have you being afraid to leave the house and them 'self-help' evicting you and throwing all your stuff on the street, is there a law that protects against that? And what are the ramifications against the landlord for doing that?

SE: Yes there is a law that is called the Michigan Lock-out law. In the case of a utility shut off the law states that the landlord can be sued for either actual damages or \$200 which ever is greater. Our organization argues when we go to court that if there is a water termination or an electrical termination that is an attempt at a 'self-help' eviction that that should be fined at \$200 per day. We often find that the judges are a lot more cheap than that and push it down to \$200 per rental peri-

- "IN THE CASE OF A UTILITY SHUT OFF THE LAW STATES THAT THE LANDLORD CAN BE SUED FOR EITHER ACTUAL DAMAGES OR \$200 WHICH EVER IS GREATER."

od, which is obviously ridiculous.

The part of the law that protects the tenants the most is the part that says that if the landlord does the job of the bailiffs and puts the tenants property on the streets, that they can be sued for triple damages. That is 3 times the actual damages. That is very effective when we are working with a landlord who has made a 'self-help' threat to a tenant. When we contact them through the mail or over the phone, that is the primary statute that we site to let them know that we are not afraid to pursue them for the most money possible under this. In 36th District Court the maximum lawsuit is \$25,000 right now, so that is probably one of the best tenant protection laws on the books in Michigan by far.

Also on the same note, another tenant/landlord law that is designed to protect the tenant is the Michigan Retaliation Law which is a law that protects tenants from evictions where the landlord is trying to evict them primarily for them making complaints about the condition of their property. This goes back to the importance of writing letters and documenting problems in written form of complaining to the City of Detroit inspectors, even though they don't give the landlord fines at least they document it and it becomes a public record and that is really good evidence in court. Many of the inspectors are happy to testify on behalf of tenants living

in low quality housing. So the Michigan Retaliation Law is a law that protects tenants who do a good job of documenting their problems of contacting public agencies trying to get those problems resolved. The more paper work the tenant can generate is in their benefit in the long run.

AT: Lets say someone lives in Lansing or Flint or someplace other than Detroit, do these laws apply to them as well?

SE: Yes

AT: Is it O.K. for them to call you, and is there groups outside of Detroit for them to call?

SE: There really are not any other groups. I think we are the primary organization in Michigan that provides tenant/landlord advice over the phone. We do it twice a week Monday and Friday from 1 to 3. Our number is 313.963.3310. Although as in a lot of situations if you are outside of Detroit it is really dependent on what the courts are like in your area and that is something we don't know about, because we are practicing in Detroit. But we can still give you good advice.

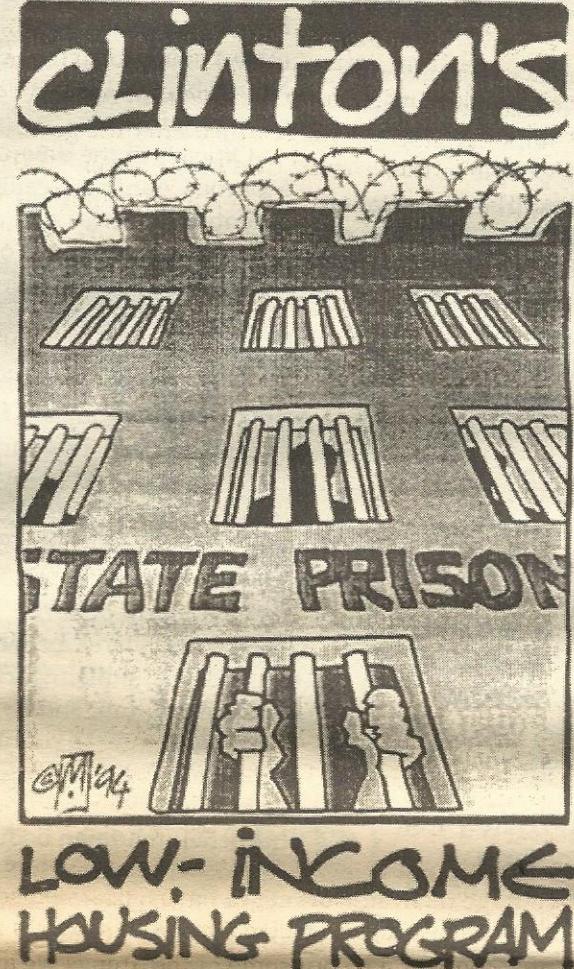
AT: What about walk-ins?

SE: The walk-in times are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 1 o'clock. We take 6 people each day. People come in with their paper work if they have court cases coming up. We open up files on anyone we decide to represent, which basically ends up being almost 100% of the people who are going to eviction court. We try to provide some kind of assistance to them in court, even if that is not with an attorney, even if that is just with an advocate like myself. Going to court and helping them negotiate with their landlord. That can help in evening out the power relationship, having some there

who is versed in tenant/landlord law and knows the in's and out's of court procedure.

We also have some books that books that people can come in and check out. They are a lot more indepth about what is going on.

Finally, we are always happy to take volunteers in our organization for any amount of time. We are always willing to take advice about how we can better serve Detroit regarding tenant/landlord issues. Give us a call.



REVOLUTIONARY ANNIVERSARY

The Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) is a rebel army based in the southernmost Mexican state of Chiapas. The group is primarily made up of indigenous people to the region. Their message is simple: "The land belongs to the people." The Zapatistas started their insurrection on January 1st, 1994, the same day NAFTA went into effect. As they rose up they labeled NAFTA "a death sentence" for the indigenous people of Chiapas.

In the past 5 years the EZLN has developed a revolutionary sentiment that has gained support worldwide. They have tried to operate in a popular manner, not seeing themselves as a vanguard, but as a vehicle for the popular will. They have fought sexism and homophobia in their ranks. Autonomy has been central to their revolutionary theory.

Over the past five years the Mexican government and the ruling party of Mexico, the PRI, have attacked the Zapatistas with U.S. government and corporate support. But they continue to fight for freedom.

Active Transformation celebrates the fifth anniversary of the uprising and uses it as a reminder that the best way to support the Zapatistas is to bring the struggle into our own back yard.

VIVA ZAPATISTAS!

IMMIGRATION NEWS: IMPRISONMENT FOR PROFIT

DETAINED CENTRAL AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS RIOT IN TEXAS IN PROTEST OF U.S. IMMIGRATION POLICY CONCERNING HURRICANE MITCH

On November 5, the Immigration and Naturalization Service temporarily suspended the deportation of immigrants from Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala until January 7, 1999. The INS deems this a "humanitarian gesture", done to alleviate the effects of Hurricane Mitch, which killed more than 10,000 people and caused severe destruction to Central America's infrastructure and economy as it hit the region October 26-31.

This "humanitarian gesture" means a longer wait in prison for detained immigrants. The INS has a widely employed, although not required, policy of detaining people in INS detention centers. Suspending their deportation means, for the most part, that the population of NON-criminal immigrants in the prison system will increase. This is good for private prison systems which view detainees as living capital assets. Prisons earn a profit on each detainee held, because the government pays about \$60 per day per immigrant, and has a meager requirement of providing one sandwich per day.

THE INS AND THE CORPORATE KKKIAN GO HAND-IN-HAND.

In face of the suspension of deportation, the INS arrested more than 40 workers, most of them from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras during a raid at the Poly Pak factory in Huntington, Long Island on November 18.

CENTRAL AMERICANS RIOT IN PRIVATELY RUN DETENTION CENTER IN LAREDO, TEXAS.

Understanding that suspension of deportation is only a means of extending prison detention, and out of concern for their families back in their hurricane devastated homelands, a group of non-criminal, Central Americans rioted in a detention center run by Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), a private for-profit prison company. It began when a group of detainees in a dorm of about 60 refused to eat. This escalated when detainees stood up to their oppressors, fought back, and began stacking beds, tables and chairs against the doors. Fearing the riot would run over into the streets of Laredo, CCA called in the Border Patrol. 75 US Border Patrol agents surrounded an immigration detention center while a special emergency squad of a dozen guards in black riot gear with shields and batons pushed through an electric door and used tear gas and physical force against a group of nine Central Americans seeking to return home.

DETENTION CENTER HUNGER STRIKE TO PROTEST INHUMANE CONDITIONS ENDS AT CLERGY REQUEST

(News source: Casa de Proyecto Libertad, Harlingen, Texas)

On November 7, a group of Central Americans began a hunger strike at the 750-bed Bayview detention center near Port Isabel, Texas. By November 9, 50 Hondurans and three Nicaraguans had joined the protest. 10 of the strikers continued to refuse food until November 12, when, fearing bad publicity, INS official called members of the clergy in to persuade the detainees to give-up their demand for better conditions. Conditions complained of include reports of detainees being shackled and chained in the middle of the night and transferred to county jails; woken up in the night for pat-down searches and having phone cards, legal documents, and other personal belongings confiscated; being subjected to intimidation, threats and insults by INS officers; being placed in isolation cells for extended periods; and being denied access to telephones and media interviews.



Activists organize INS Free Zone in California-

A community organization, Pueblos Unidos (People United), petitioned local businesses to declare their establishments INS Free Zones. Over 45 businesses in an immigrant rich area of Roseland, CA agreed to require warrants of INS officers on their premises. Pueblos Unidos began this campaign in response to the atmosphere of terror that INS raids were creating in their community.

PROFITS EARNED FROM DETENTION OF IMMIGRANTS SPURS EXPANSION OF MICHIGAN PRISON SYSTEM

(News source: Monroe Evening News, November 15, 1998: "INS inmates: An offer too good to refuse?")

Officials in the downriver community of Monroe County are calling the immigrant detention business a "great opportunity" and because of the amount of revenue generated by housing non-criminal detainees (\$60 per day) the Monroe County Board of Commissioners is planning to build two 80-bed dormitories.

There is a concern that judges will take this opportunity to quickly fill-up the facility with criminals when the county is now dependent upon the \$850,000 in revenues it will earn this year off of the federal government for housing immigrants. The federal government will also foot the bill for any medical costs. Still, the county Sheriff believes "there will always be a market out there" for locking up non-criminal professions, skilled workers and people seeking political asylum, and he feels that turning down the opportunity to profit off of people fleeing death and torture in their homelands would be "irresponsible" of the community. To reaffirm his belief in human beings as profits, the sheriff stated, "What township ... are you aware of that would turn down \$1.7 million (to build the prison)? I don't think there would be any."

While detainees have a right to a hearing, there is no limit on the time they must wait before having their case heard before a hearing officer. Many detainees are unaware that they are even afforded this meager right. For many states, including Michigan, there are no INS Detention Centers and detainees are held in county jails. The INS pays up to \$60 per day for prisons to hold detainees, often in privately owned jails (see article). Private prisons are not subject to the regulations the INS enforces in its detention centers. This means that people are not told of their rights and can sit in jail without being informed of their fate, while it is in the interest of the prison system to keep them their as a source of income to its budget.

This capitalist system has no remorse for its capitalization on human life. The system does not discriminate between its exploitation of electronics, cattle or human beings. Its only goal is to feed the beast- an elite class of Amerikkkas who own 70% of the wealth while only making up 10% of the population. This big corporate entity uses immigration law to turn people into products and uses the cops to enforce and expand this practice. And the beast sells it to the general population through its "Amerikkka is #1" propaganda, which is a government approved and promoted form of racism. Only through the destruction and overturning of this wretched beast and the elimination of its promoters, will people one day stand together, and start dealing with the more important struggles that involve all of us: those between men and women, children and adults, humans and animals.

continued from page 7

down, and to develop a smaller, cozier world community? Their harsh policies doubling the I.N.S. budget five times in the past ten years have done nothing to slow migration. Migration has in fact increased by 275,000 per year. Is it the fear that Mexicanos are not afraid to demonstrate, and organize to build unions that stand in direct conflict to the economic interests of politicians and big business? Is it pure jealousy for the exquisite color of Latino skin? Or, is it pure and simple, home grown American racism for profit?

While a lot of sources were used for this article, the used for most of the statistics, which is also the most rad one and the one most worth mentioning, is the on-line news service: Immigration News Briefs, which is a monthly supplement to Weekly News Update on the Americas. Its published weekly. E-mail them at nicajg@panix.com for a free trial subscription.

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Forget Clinton Impeach This Whole Rotten System

to imperialist terror we must develop new ways of countering the new warfare, and expose the fact that the war has continued from the outset of the Gulf War, in terms of the economic sanctions that are having horrifying effects on the majority of Iraq's population.

Wag the Dog

Few were fooled by the spectacle of the bombing. It was clearly an attempt



U.S. bomb blows up in Iraqi neighborhood, breaking a water main

to divert public attention away from the beginning of discussion in the House of representatives on impeachment for Bill Clinton. While nothing in history is really this simple, it was just so glaringly obvious that you cannot deny it as a factor. The rational for the current assault was the latest denial by Saddam Hussein to allow UN weapons inspectors to search the ruling Baath party's headquarters. The agreement to allow UN/US spies to examine Iraqi weapon's facilities came as a part of an agreement to cut back economic sanctions that have had a crippling effect on Iraq since 1990. A recent United Nations report stated that between six and seven thousand Iraqi's die each month from malnutrition and curable diseases, as a direct result of these sanctions. For good reason Iraqi's felt that the U.S. was not, and would not come through on their end of the bargain.

The Butler Report

Just days before Clinton ordered airstrikes, UN Chief Weapons Inspector Richard Butler presented a report to the UN claiming that Iraq had not met its end of the bargain, and had hampered the inspection of weapon's facilities. It turns out the Clinton administration worked closely with Butler on the report, insuring the conclusions that would lead conveniently to the renewed bombings. Former Chief Weapons Inspector Scott Ritter, who resigned his position due "political differences" suggested during a CNN interview that Clinton had consistently intervened to shape the turnout of events. He claimed that this was the second time Clinton had used the Iraq "crisis" to shift focus away from his domestic "troubles".

Ritter said that during a heated point in the Monica Lewinsky scandal the inspectors were instructed to search one of Hussein's palaces, which he said they new was not a weapons sight. It was only chosen because it would be refused, and therefore could be the basis for a spectacle of bombings. This time Ritter suggested they knew that the Baath headquarters was not a weapons sight, but was a political target, chosen at the precise moment Clinton needed a diversion from the impeachment proceedings. It was also suggested that Clinton's attacks on Osama Bin Laden, in Afghanistan, and the bombing of a pharmaceutical factory in Sudan, were also conveniently during another height in Clinton's scandal ridden administration. As one protestor's sign read: Warfare: Clinton's Viagra.

No War For Oil?

While it seems Iraq is the new convenient enemy, to be targeted at will

Amidst President Clinton's impeachment crisis, the U.S. and Great Britain launched a series of bombing attacks. Immediately most people began to question the timing and rational for the attack, suggesting a "Wag the Dog" scenario, from the movie of the same name a couple of years ago. While the attacks were the most intense since Operation Desert Storm, they only lasted three days. As revolutionaries that are opposed

whenever a distraction is needed. It is also not surprising that the attacks come in the middle of another oil crisis. This time it is not a crisis for people, but a crisis for companies. The U.S. doesn't need Iraqi oil, for the time being we have other sources. The bombings came at a time when gas prices were at a decade

low. Multinational Oil companies are trying to figure out how to respond, mergers are taking place. There was a New York Times cover story involving oil companies in crisis nearly every other day. But with the renewed bombing campaign guess who raised gas prices by almost twenty cents per gallon? Everybody.

Contradictions

It should be no surprise the UN weapons inspections laid the ground work for the attack. The intimate details gathered by the inspectors were turned over to the U.S. and used to define military targets. What brought this on was the so-called violation of Kuwait sovereignty by Iraq. Violating sovereignty has been the hallmark of American history. The U.S. goes to war, in violation of its own rules over and over again. Then we have a president being impeached for lying, when that is one of the president's primary jobs - keep the public distracted. Politics are shown to be the farce that they are, but then Clinton's ratings soar? Or so we're told.

World Wide Wave of Revolt

The day after the bombing began protests were announced all over America and around the world. A Speak Out in Detroit turned out 250 protesters. There were demonstrations all over the Midwest, in Times Square, and Washington D.C. In East Lansing the Arab Student Organization held a demonstration. In London anarchist anti-war protesters attacked the police when they tried to make arrests. In Syria a huge demonstration of thousands was held at the US embassy. Protestors scaled the building and burnt the American flag. In the Izreali occupied West Bank, Palestinians defied the ban on Pro-Iraq demonstrations and clashed with Israeli troops. Thousands also held militant demonstrations in Yemen, Egypt, Jordan, Sudan, and India.

How do We Respond?

It was frustrating trying to respond to the renewed bombing of Iraq, knowing that it would be over in a couple of days, before many Americans would feel any costs, if they were paying attention at all. The mainstream media kept the political discussion focused on popular American fears of Iraq, as well as, rationalizing Clinton's timing. How can we shift the debate in America to focus on countering US international terrorism? We need to expose the fact that U.S./U.N.

policy in Iraq is war. The economic sanctions that have been going on for almost a decade are an act of war. If China responded to U.S. aggression by blockading our borders and ports, there is no doubt that it would be recognized as an act of war. We must build a movement that can act fast. This means a tight network. The only strategy the U.S. seems to recognize is force. We must build the necessary organization to effectively deal some blows to those who profit from capitalist expansion around the world.

What is to Come?

While the Gulf War has been unconventional, we may see the development of a more conventional war. Obviously Iraq has refused to allow UN spies

back into the country. The US is using this as a pretext to continue sanctions and build up its military settlement in the Middle East. The Clinton Administration has made clear that there will be more bombings in the future. There is also much talk of aiding resistance in Iraq, to help dispose of Hussein and provide a more U.S. friendly dictatorship, like that of Kuwait. While we must develop new strategies to adjust with the times, we must also be prepared to see the past repeat itself.



U.S. diplomats car in Syria after residents demonstrate against war.

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